

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Huber for granting an interview and for his time spent during the interview.

The application has been amended consistent with the discussion at the interview to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 8-16 and 19-27 remain in this application. Claims 1-7 and 17-18 have been cancelled.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 8-13, 21-23 and 25 are allowed.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 14-16, 19, 20, 24, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by DE HAAN WO 03/030173. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Canceling claims 1-3, 6 and 7 is believed to obviate the rejection as to these claims.

However, as pointed out at the interview, each of claims 14 to 16, 19, 20, 24, 26 and 27 has the following three novel features:

(i) the recording medium includes a plurality of management areas;

(ii) the plurality of types of management information and the index information can be recorded a plurality of times in each of the plurality of management areas;
and

(iii) the index information and all management information indicated by a newest index information (in other words, the newest management information and the index information for indicating the newest management information) are disposed in same management area.

As discussed during the interview, according to the above novel features, the following technical effects can be obtained. Specifically, since all of the newest management information (i.e. the management information minimally required to construct the newest management information) and the index information are recorded in one management area, it is possible to quickly read the newest management information. Namely, it is only necessary to search one management area, in order to obtain the newest management information, and it is unnecessary to search a plurality of management areas. Therefore, it is possible to reduce the seek time of the pickup, which allows quick reading (see page 24, lines 5 to 16 of the Application as filed).

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DE HAAN AND PRESENT INVENTION

As pointed out at the interview, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to equate the temporary overview spaces (TOS) of De Haan with the recited plurality of management areas, the above novel features (ii) and

(iii) are not disclosed or suggested in De Haan. The reasons are as follows:

The position set forth in the Office Action is that the "TOS (Temporary Overview Space)" in De Haan corresponded to the "management area" in the present invention,) the "MGT (Management Data Area) or management data recorded in MGT" in De Haan corresponded to the "management information" in the present invention, and the "RSAT (Reserved Allocation Space Table)" in De Haan corresponded to the "index information" in the present invention.

However, in Fig. 3B and page 7 lines 31 to 33 of De Haan, the RSAT-2 contains not only the mapping of the management data 25 of the second recording, but also the mapping of the management data 16 of the first recording. In this case, the newest management information is constructed from the management data 16 (i.e. MGT1-1, MGT1-2, and MGT1-3 which are for managing the VTSTT_VOBS#1 7) recorded in the TOS-1 17 and the management data 25 (i.e. MGT2-1 and MGT2-2 which are for managing the VTSTT_VOBS#2 27) recorded in the TOS-2 18. Namely, in De Haan, the management area into which the newest management information is recorded) is divided into the plurality of areas (i.e. into the TOS-1 and the TOS-2). This means that the RSAT-2 indicates MGT1-1, MGT1-2 and MGT1-3, which are recorded in the TOS-1, and MGT2-1 and MGT2-2, which are recorded in the TOS-2 different from the TOS-1.

Therefore, in De Haan, the RSAT-2 and the newest management information (MGT1-1, MGT1-2, MGT1-3, MGT2-1 and MGT2-2) are not recorded in the same TOS. Thus, according to De Haan, it is necessary to search two TOSs (i.e. TOS-1 and TOS-2), in order to obtain the newest management data.

Accordingly, as agreed at the interview, De Haan does not disclose the above novel feature (iii) such that "the index information and all management information indicated by a newest index information are disposed in same management area".

In addition, in Fig. 3B of De Haan, into each of the TOS-1 and TOS-2, only one time recording can be performed. Specifically, only one RSAT-1 is recorded into the TOS-1 and only one management data 16 is recorded. This means that the RSAT-1 cannot be recorded a plurality of times in the TOS-1 and the management data 16 cannot be recorded a plurality of times in the TOS-1. The same argument can be applied to the TOS-2. Namely, the RSAT-2 cannot be recorded a plurality of times in the TOS-2 and the management data 25 cannot be recorded a plurality of times in the TOS-2.

Therefore, De Haan does not disclose the above novel feature (ii) such that "the plurality of types of management information and the index information can be recorded a plurality of times in each of the plurality of management areas".

The same argument can be applied to the recording status in Fig.3C. Specifically, in Fig. 3C and page 8 lines 16 to

23 of De Haan, the RSAT-3 contains the mapping of the management data 16 of the first recording (i.e. the MGT1-1 and MGT1-2 in the TOS-1 except for the MGT1-3), the mapping of the management data 25 (i.e. the MGT2-1 and the MGT2-2 in the TOS-2) of the second recording, and the mapping of the management data 30 (i.e. MGT1-3' in the TOS 30) of the update recording. Namely, in De Haan, the management area into which the newest management information is recorded) is divided into the plurality of areas (i.e. into the TOS-1, the TOS-2 and the TOS-3).

Therefore, in De Haan, the RSAT-3 and the newest management information (MGT1-1, MGT1-2, MGT2-1, MGT2-2 and MGT1-3') are not recorded in the same TOS. Accordingly, De Haan does not disclose the above novel feature (iii) such that "the index information and all management information indicated by a newest index information are disposed in same management area".

In addition, in Fig. 3C of De Haan, into the TOS-3, only one time recording can be performed. Specifically, only one RSAT-3 is recorded into the TOS-3 and only one management data 30 is recorded. This means that the RSAT'3 cannot be recorded a plurality of times in the TOS'3 and the management data 30 cannot be recorded a plurality of times in the TOS-3.

Therefore, De Haan does not disclose the above novel feature (ii) such that "the plurality of types of management information and the index information can be recorded a plurality of times in each of the plurality of management areas".

In view of the above, since De Haan does not disclose at least the above novel features (ii) and (iii), De Haan is not anticipatory and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should be withdrawn.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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